The Lions' Pride

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A Desire to Learn

By Kiely Huynh
Contributing Writer

With the coming of the fall semester, Saint Leo has upgraded to a new ecosystem of learning management.

"For ten years, Saint Leo has been driving a 2007 Cadillac, and we are now moving to a 2016 Lexus Hybrid," said Jeff Borden, the associate vice president for teaching and learning innovation, as he explained Saint Leo's move from Pearson's Learning Studio to Lion's SHARE.

According to Borden, Desire to Learn, better known as D2L, is only one of the five key components of Lions SHARE that represents excellent technology for managing learning components.

"The entire system, all five tools, is being integrated so that students only feel like they are using a single system, but it's actually all five combined that will replace Learning Studio," Borden explains.

The Learning Management System (LMS) Committee is always finding new ways to update the system as well as to actively monitor student's progress in class. It is not currently known what components or tools will be used in Lions SHARE, but the LMS Committee does have the student's and faculty's best interests at heart.

In the future, the LMS Committee hopes to build or add an Artificial Intelligence to Lion's SHARE that can process a variety of possibilities for a professor to innovatively interact with their students and gain peripheral knowledge on their progress.

For instance, when a professor assigns group projects, the system could look into the experiences of student responses, grades, and other innumerable factors to determine who would be best suited to lead a class discussion and who would be better to process and gather information for a project.

"We will gain a ton of functionality and capacity that we never had at about 2/3 the cost. I just wanted to make that really clear," Borden said.

Bugs and glitches are the most difficult things to avoid with any new piece of technology that comes out in the world, including that of D2L. Some of the bugs that some students have encountered with D2L are downloads of certain documents, such as PowerPoints or scans of certain pages within a text, and glitches with submissions to the drop box. Many of the things that some students have encountered, and may continue to see, are not exactly "glitches" or "bugs" but either a communication or a process issue.

Alicia Corts, an assistant professor of theater who was once a system administrator for D2L at the University of Georgia, believes that "It will take a while to learn this complicated system, but the benefits are worth it in the end."

Sam Stokes, a senior history major, is just glad "that this new system is so easy to use."

Borden commented that from the transactions that have occurred, less than 500 of them had been glitches, a .0005 percent chance that the problem may have indeed been a glitch. In that case, students and faculty should contact University Technology Services (UTS) should they experience any issues.

For the most part, both students and faculty are satisfied with the new changes that have come with the innovative new system. Hopefully, it will continue to make their time here at Saint Leo run a little more smoothly.

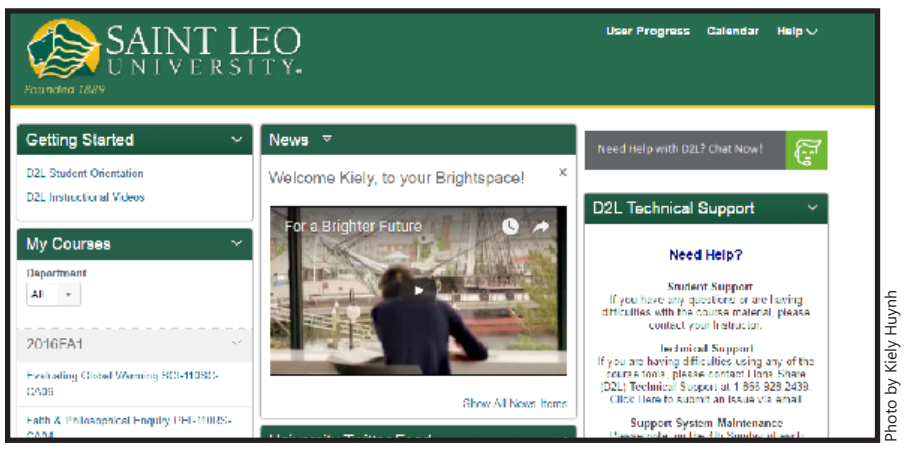

Photo by Kiely Huynh

The new system has proved much easier for students to access and navigate than its predecessor, Learning Studio.

We Have Splash Down

By Michael Goodeaux
Social Media Manager

On Oct. 1, Kappa Sigma hosted their single largest charity fundraiser yet. Splashdown brought together nearly 200 students and raised money to help veterans and their families.

The event, which originated at Arizona State University, took place behind the cafeteria in "The Bowl."

At 8:00 AM, members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity started assembling 50 hay bales to create barricades and flag stands. The previous night, several Brothers had stayed up until almost 3:00 AM filling up more than 1,500 water balloons.

The event commenced at 11:00 AM and was a variation of Capture the Flag. Sororities formed several teams, and each had to pay an entrance fee of around $150 per team to play. Those who aren't involved in Greek Life were still encouraged to attend but were charged $10 for entry in exchange for food.

The rules were simple, each team got 30 water balloons, and if a player got hit with a water balloon, they were out of the game. Two referees patrolled the outskirts of the field and called out those who were hit. Teams alternated playing in ladder-style matches until a winner was crowned.

Around 1 PM, the game paused so that the players and volunteers could chow down. McDonald's donated $500 to the fraternity to use for catering. The lunch consisted of either BBQ pulled pork or chicken sandwiches with a side of cole slaw or baked beans. For beverages students could choose from sodas, tea, or water and, as an added treat, a snow cone machine was available for the duration of the event.

Half of the money raised went to Kappa Sigma's organization of choice, the Military Heroes Campaign, which provides aid to military veterans and their families in times of need. The other half went into a fund to help make sure more events like this can happen in the future.

In the end, one of the Alpha Sigma Tau teams won and took home the trophy.

"I don't know what the statistics are regarding fundraising on campus," commented Austin Abbot, Kappa's Sigma's Grandmaster, "but this has to be among the biggest that this campus has ever seen."

Between the three sororities that entered, the 30 Kappa Sigma brothers who helped run the event, and the numerous students who turned up to support the players, it's easy to see that the Saint Leo student body holds the core value of community close to heart.

Photo by Michael Goodeaux

When the teams ran out out of water balloon ammunition, the only way to win was to capture the flag of the opposing team.

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NEWSPAPER

Editorial

Should the U.S. Pay Teachers More?

By Niclas Bez
Contributing Writer

Teachers play an important role in guiding the growth and development of children. Beginning from learning the alphabet in nursery school, a child develops their skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Children then progress to studying literature, science, mathematics, social studies, and foreign languages in high school.

All of this intellectual growth would not be possible without the guidance and constructive support from teachers. For parents, it can be appropriate to show appreciation to children's teachers by sending them small gifts. While we can certainly let teachers know how much they're appreciated at any time of the year, most parents send teachers gifts on National Teacher Day at the end of the school year or during the Christmas holiday.

When we hear someone say the word teacher, the image that comes to mind is a person speaking in front of a class of apathetic students, which is the unfortunate reality of our society nowadays. We do not have much respect for teachers and we view them as professionals whose sole purposes are to grade exams and earn a salary.

"I chose to study education due to the fact that I really love being around children. Rather than studying a field that I might not enjoy, I decided to take a job in which the reward is watching the growth of children. Seeing a child develop over a year is one of the most rewarding things I can think of," said junior Joe Marah.

The role of a teacher is both significant and valuable. It has a major influence on the society in which students live and learn and no other personality can have an influence more profound than that of a teacher. Students are deeply affected by a teacher's character, competence, and moral commitment. A popular teacher becomes a model for their students. Students try to follow their teacher's manners, clothing, etiquette, style of conversation, and overall physique.

"The thing I'm most looking forward to about being a teacher is getting out in the field to work with children on an everyday basis. Learning about teaching is important, but I'm so much more excited to have an impact out in the schools," said Marah.

A teacher has the ability to lead students anywhere. During early education, students tend to determine their future plans and aims in life through consultation with their teachers. Therefore, a good and visionary teacher can play a prominent role in molding the future of their students while a poor teacher can harm students much more seriously than just through class content. An incompetent teacher in not only a bad individual, but also an embodiment of an incompetent generation. A nation with unqualified teachers is a nation at risk.

The importance of a teacher as an architect of future generations demands that only the best and most intelligent and competent members of our society should qualify for the noble profession of teaching. Unfortunately, the worst and most incapable people in society find their way into this profession sometimes. It is widely recognized that a primary cause for this is the poor salaries of primary and secondary teachers, which sometimes are no better than that of clerks. Because of this, a large number of teachers are frustrated and disinterested in actually teaching.

According to the New York Times, the U.S.' teachers are only in 11th place in yearly salary of average primary education teachers. This clearly puts them behind other western countries that are less wealthy, such as Ireland or the Netherlands. The gap is even bigger when compared to the salaries of other professions with similar required qualifications. Because of this pay deficit, many students do not have the desire to become teachers even though they might enjoy the job.

"I think everyone who works any sort of job will say they [teachers] deserve to be paid more. I do think teachers should be paid more due to the importance of what we are doing. We are shaping the next generation of children. That takes just as much effort, if not more, than jobs that pay more," said Marah.

The teaching profession also does not earn a lot of respect in society. Primary and secondary teachers are particularly at a disadvantage because their status is lower than doctors, engineers, advocates, civil servants, and even lower than semi-literate and illiterate traders. Thus, it would require great commitment for an intelligent individual, however fond of education and training they may be, to forsake the career of a doctor or engineer to become a teacher. When selecting good teachers, it must be kept in mind that better opportunity, prospects, and perks are offered to teachers.

A good teacher is someone that is a model of faith and piety and is knowledgeable. A teacher should consider it their duty to educate and train students and should feel responsible for them. They should feel that their students have been entrusted to them and should avoid any breach of that trust that society has reposed in them. They should be a sociable person with their roots embedded in society.

A teacher should actively and positively participate in social activities. They should know the art of teaching with a deep insight into child psychology. They should always deal with the students justly. They should not lose their self-control when students make mistakes and should respect their feelings and egos. They should try to understand and resolve students' difficulties with grace while keeping their cool. They should be able to smile in the face of bitter criticism of their opinions and should not feel ashamed or humiliated to wholeheartedly accept mistakes made.

Continued online.

Here's what you missed online this week at www.prideonlinedot.wordpress.com

Getting Jiggy with It

Photo by John Hall

On Sept. 30 students did the Time Warp and took themselves back to the 90's at Sigma Gamma Rho's 90's themed bash. Check out the full story online to see what kind of moves were busted.

A Fearless Leader

Photo by Rebecca Hugh

Guest speaker Tawan Perry visited the Saint Leo campus to give advice and share his take on what makes a good leader with students. Think you meet his criteria? Read the article online to find out.

A New Kind of Sock Hop

After the completion of a successful sock drive, Saint Leo welcomed Veterans to Operation Stand Down, where students and faculty alike came out to support our troops. To find out what the campus gave back, read the article online.

From Greatness to Beauty

Based off of the book of the same title, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children released in theaters on Sept. 30 and was directed by Tim Burton.

National Debates

Round two of the presidential debates went underway on Oct. 9. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump answered questions from citizens and the moderator Anderson Cooper.

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Campus News

Clash of the Candidates

VP candidates discuss foreign policy, education, immigration, and the economy.

By Victoria Markou
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Disclaimer: The following story, photos, and accompanying items are fictionalized and are part of Saint Leo University's Alternate Reality Learning Experience (ARLE). The events described did not occur. The characters are fictional and any resemblance to any person living or dead is purely coincidental.

On Oct. 3, in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms, students gathered to witness the vice presidential candidates clash over the most contemporary issues posed by student moderators at the Vice Presidential Debate.

As part of the *Alternate Reality Learning Experience (ARLE)*, a University-wide mock presidential campaign, the vice presidential candidates Caterina Castillo and Angela Johnson participated in an explosive debate. Sophomore Amanda Miceli is portrayed as Madame Caterina Castillo, Ambassador of Russia running with Republican presidential candidate Paul Friedman. Sophomore Sophie Metellus played Angela Johnson, Senator of Florida, running on the Democratic ticket with the Howard administration.

The moderators questioned the vice presidential candidates on topics within the four categories of foreign policy, education, immigration, and the economy.

The topics among foreign policy included how to prevent further terrorist and ISIS attacks, opinions on joining Obama's veto on allowing victims of 911 to sue Saudi Arabia, opinions on the deals made with Obama with Iran, Syrian immigration, and if the process of immigration should be made easier.

Castillo does not believe that the war on terrorism needs to be a ground war, but that through "diplomatic means, and with NATO allies involved can keep America safe." Castillo believes in the continued lawsuit against Saudi Arabia. Castillo does not support the UN's decisions.

"Iran should have to allow inspections of nuclear weapons like every other nuclear weapon-holding country," said Castillo.

Johnson, too, is not in favor of using ground troops.

"Working closely with the military can keep America safe from terrorist attacks," said Johnson.

She believes the lawsuit against Saudi Arabia would cause unnecessary conflicts with the allies. She stands behind Obama's deal with Iran, that it will alleviate issues and bring unity instead of keeping animosity.

Immigration discussion topics included opinions on Syrian immigration, if the process of immigration should be made easier, federal government funding to immigrant sanctuary cities, and if employers be required to provide employee legal status.

In regards to Syrian immigrants, Castillo feels that this system needs drastic reform.

"If immigrants cannot verify their backgrounds, like most civil war states cannot, then, it could compromise national security," she said.

Castillo would agree to let only Syrians who have verifiable backgrounds into the U.S., and stated that "harsher sanctions should be made on those choosing to take the illegal path of entrance because illegal immigrants do not provide background checks and do not usually pay taxes."

Castillo disagrees with funding sanctuary cities.

"This is major threat to national security, not having the legal status of workers could lead to the endangerment of the nation- it could make the nation more vulnerable to terrorist attacks," she said.

Johnson supports immigration of Syrians. She believes in a "melting-pot basis, that anyone should be allowed to enter our grounds, and that certain aspects of background checks deny chances of freedom." Johnson feels that immigration should be made easier and readily available, for those that choose the legal path of amnesty, through easier background checks and in terms of costs and paperwork.

"Federal funding should be determined on a state-by-state, city-by-city basis," she said. She believes that "employers should know who is working for them, but the differences in circumstances per verification should be taken into consideration."

An education expert was brought among the moderators to ask questions concerning Common Core, decisions made in educational funding, property taxes to fund education, college made free, retention rates tied to funding.

Johnson is a firm believer of Common Core, which allows students to stay on the same educational level and pace.

"There should be more tax dollars and larger amounts taxed on lotteries to be used to support education, as Common Core prepares students to take the SAT and ACT, needed to further their education," she said.

Johnson also feels that property taxes should be used to better the education system, and commends the idea of free college.

"College is an opportunity, it should not be decided based on the ability to pay through-the-roof prices, that's ridiculous," she said. Johnson is against retention rates being tied to funding as it should not be gradution-rate based.

Castillo would prefer Common Core to be eliminated.

"Common Core teaches students how to pass exams versus providing a well-rounded education, it should be left to each board of education per state to decide," she said. "Grants should be given to states to disperse among themselves, funding should be used to get back on the track for success, as the US is drastically falling behind developing countries in education because of Common Core."

Castillo stated, "Using property taxes to fund education would be enabling the children from the 1 percent and creating more of a gap, when funds need to be more evenly distributed." She feels that only "funding for those in the armed forces should remain free and available," while free college would allow those ineligible and unable to get into college. Retention rates and funding would "create incentives for teachers to teach students to pass tests."

Interviews with vice presidential candidates, Angela Johnson (left) and Caterina Castillo (right), can be seen on https://prideonlinedotnet.wordpress.com.

For the economic category, the topics mentioned were growth in unemployment, minimum wage, and the tax burden of the 1 percent status quo paying 50 percent of all taxes.

Castillo's proposition to fix the economy is to reverse reckless spending, restructure the budget, lower taxes by slashing the budget and put funding into domestic programs.

We need to stop over funding the military and stop flaunting what is already the largest military," she said.

She believes increasing minimum wage would raise unemployment rates and inflation. In response to the tax burden on the 1 percent, Castillo believes that "lowering individual and corporate taxes will help lower taxes across the board."

Johnson responded, "We need to focus on ways to create more jobs to build up the country; we cannot afford to cut military fundings, as we need the military to prevent homeland crisises."

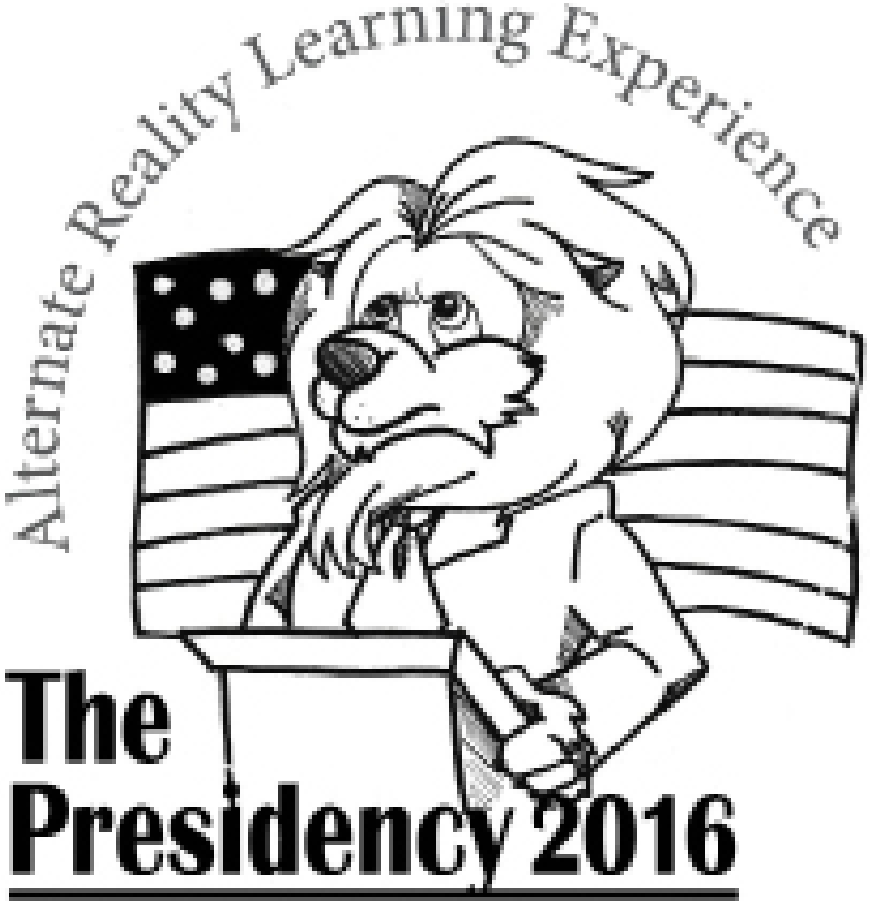
In terms of minimum wage, she believes in increasing it to a certain extent to making living wages easier to obtain, but capping it off at $11, as professionals should not be making the same as unskilled laborers.

"The 1 percent should not be complaining when they have extra, as compared to those that can barely afford to live," she said.

Madame Ambassador Castillo's closing statement entailed, "The advocate for the people and the change that America needs to fix its broken economic, immigration, and education system is the Friedman-Castillo administration."

Sen. Johnson's closing statement consisted of, "The Howard-Johnson administration has the people at heart, we are not focused on cutting funding, we are about all the people being heard and understood."

This Vice Presidential Debate was a warm up event for the Presidential Debate, in which Howard and Friedman will go head-to-head. The event will be held in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms on Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. to determine the future "president."



Worldwide

Hurricane Matthew Demolishes the Caribbean

By Kimberly Scott-Williams
Contributing Writer

Hurricane Matthew was a force to be reckoned with as it was the strongest and deadliest hurricane for this hurricane season. Like most hurricanes, it first appeared as a system on the Western coast of Africa as it amplified in strength over the warm Caribbean Sea. Its monstrous strength cause damages to infrastructures and has taken over 800 lives in Haiti, according to CNN.

Hurricane Matthew first came in existence southwest of the Cape Verde Islands Sept. 25; Five days later, Matthew was categorized as a Category 5 hurricane, the strongest hurricane in this year's hurricane season. It was predicted to directly hit Jamaica, but hours before it diverted its path towards Haiti, where the Southern side was devastated by the hurricane.

Kemoi Bryan, a senior engineering student at University of Technology (UTech) in Jamaica, stated that some people were prepared for the Category five hurricane to hit them.

"We [Jamaica] got some rain especially in the Eastern part of the island which leads to flash flooding," said Bryan. "Overcast skies and windy conditions didn't last long because the hurricane shifted."

If the storm had struck Jamaica, it would have been the deadliest storm to hit the country next to the 1988 Category 5 hurricane Gilbert where it left 500,000 people homeless and over 200 persons dead.

Jennifer Delgado, a weather presenter, stated on air that children in Haiti eat trees. A famous quote she stated when discussing the deforestation in Haiti, "even the kids there, they're so hungry; they actually eat the trees," sparked controversy, and backlash ensued on social media. A freshman business major from Haiti, Christian Supreme, denied that this remark made by Delgado is true.

"A lot of people think we live like savages. Pretty many people highlight the worst part of Haiti and they portray it was off," Supreme said.

With numbers of the deaths escalating to 800, according to CNN, the total number of casualties are still not known. According to Time Warner Cable News, there are "many hard hit, remote areas are unreachable, as roads are impassable, and telecommunications do not exist."

"A few [casualties are] missing that authorities' are still looking for," said Supreme. "A lot of near water properties were destroyed, along with flooded streets and cities."

Matthew directly passed over Haiti's Tiborn peninsula with wind speeds up to 230 km/h crushing not only homes and lives but the natives' hopes of recovery, according to CNN.

This is another natural disaster that struck Haiti in the last decade. Previously, on Jan. 12, 2010, to be exact, Haiti suffered an earthquake with a magnitude of seven on the Richer Scale. Christian agreed that the effects of the earthquake still remain and that there are many problems still exist, like diseases and damage to the island's infrastructure.

"The effects are still there ... cholera was never eradicated. We just had less cases and some cases weren't reported," said Supreme. "No more people [are] living in the tents, but there are a lot of empty [plots] of lands where old buildings used to be because they were never rebuilt. And some buildings are still weak and awaiting reconstruction, but [for the] most part we are doing very well infrastructure wise."

Haiti is known not only for being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere but also for being the first black Republic in 1804. Many people think that Haiti's economic condition is as a result of its early independence, but Supreme thinks otherwise.

"Haiti's early independence and early years, in general, is one of our [Haitians] most proud moments."

The South Eastern, as well as part of Northern Cuba was affected by the storm. Cuba is said to have received up to 20 inches of rain. The eye of the Hurricane passed the eastern end of the country, destroying many homes and crops and resulting in landslide occurring as well. A lot of streets were unrecognizable as the debris of major land lines could not even withstand the strength of Matthew's winds.

The Bahamas was the final Caribbean country that Hurricane Matthew hit, with the storm surging across the low lining areas of the archipelago.

"The hurricane did extensive damage to the areas lying near the beach and large water bodies," said Gabrielle Stubbs, a Bahamian biomedical and health science major with criminal justice minor. "There was major structural damage, even in the capital Nassau where government buildings, gas stations, supermarkets, and homes were damaged severely."

Hurricane Matthew visited five states of Florida, Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas before heading back into the Atlantic Ocean as a Tropical Storm. The storm still reaped havoc in the United States starting with Florida, where it did a significant amount of damage.

Hannah Hanke, a resident of St. Augustine, Fla., explained that five trees completely demolished houses and many power lines and poles were down. Her grandparents did not evacuate, but their neighbors 40 ft. tree, fell onto of their house and knocked off the chimney box. Also, "the windows to the screened in the porch were torn so that we had to flood in the porch," said Hanke.

For Cindi Goodeaux, the situation was different from Hanke's because the hurricane did not affect Goodeaux's family as much. In fact, Goodeaux received no damage to her house apart from her backyard.

"We had several trees downed and part of our fence blown apart," Goodeaux said. "The trees were in the back of our property and so fell in our yard and onto our neighbor's new fence."

Goodeaux also explained that the residence was well prepared for the hurricane as many made a "mad rush" to the supermarkets before the storm hit. They had also charged their devices before the electricity was out to prepare. Also, 215,000 residents in a Goodeaux community was without electricity from Friday to Sunday morning, with AT&T users being without service, as of Oct. 9. The death toll in the U.S. had climbed to 27, according to ABC News.

Photo from @JamaicanObserver

Haiti still suffers from the effects of the 2010 earthquake, in which many infrastructures still has to be built.

Photo from Cindi Goodeaux

Florida is affected by Hurricane Matthew and so was South Carolina, which had its record-breaking flooding in their history, according to New York Times.

Photo from @og_thierry

In a hurricane, trees and mountains help soften the effects of the hurricanes.

Science

Life On Mars? Maybe Soon…

By Matthew McCann
Contributing Writer

Picture from @SpaceX

This artist's rendering illustrates what SpaceX reports: "Future Mars mission departing from historic Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center."

On Sept. 27, SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk revealed his company's plans for the colonization of Mars.

The goal of Musk's project is to establish a self-sustaining colony on Mars. The company has proposed an Interplanetary Transport System (ITS), which would combine the most powerful rocket ever built in history and a large spaceship to carry a crew in. The craft would be able to carry up to 100 people at a time, and the company plans to take them there by the year 2024.

According to space.com, Musk said, "What I really want to do here is to make Mars seem possible — make it seem as though it's something that we could do in our lifetimes, and that you can go."

The ITS rocket will be a near replica of the company's previous rockets, but it will feature much more powerful engines, called "Raptors." Previous rockets have utilized nine engines; the ITS rocket will have 42 boosters on it. This will give the ITS the capability of lifting up to 300 tons out of orbit, more than any spacecraft has ever been able to lift before.

The plan seems simple, but it is going to be far from easy. The ITS craft will launch with little fuel in its tanks in order to maximize the amount of cargo, and then another tanker will be launched shortly after to fill the craft's tanks. Then, when Earth and Mars are favorably aligned, the spaceship portion of the ITS will engage its engines and blast towards the Red Planet.

The powerful Raptor engines will allow the ship to make the trip in about 80 days, depending on how the planets are aligned, Musk said, as reported by space.com.

That's a very fast journey, considering any current spacecraft take anywhere between six and nine months to make the trip.

This will not just be a one-time trip, however. SpaceX plans to have around 1,000 of these ITS space ships launch to Mars every 26 months or so, which is the time it takes for Mars and Earth to align favorably.

"The Mars colonial fleet would depart en masse," said Musk, according to space.com.

The fleet will land on Mars using a concept called "supersonic retropopulsion," which will slow the ship down fast enough with onboard thrusters. This will be more efficient than using parachutes, the traditional method, because it will allow the craft to touch down softly and will minimize any risk of damage to the cargo and crew.

The journey does not have to end once the crew reaches the Mars, either. SpaceX has also revealed plans of harnessing solar energy and elements on Mars to produce methane gas, the primary fuel source for the ITS. They plan to have the colonists build launching stations on the planet itself, so that eventually the crew could be able to fly back home. The gravitational pull on Mars is weaker than the pull on Earth, so the launch would require significantly less fuel.

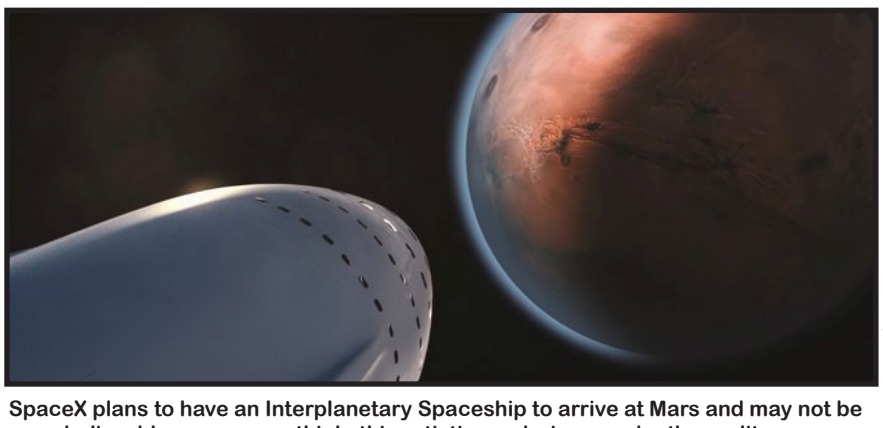
Perhaps the most amazing aspect of the entire project is this: tickets to go to Mars will cost only $200,000. This amazingly low price is a result of the ITS craft's reusable rocket boosters. These new and powerful engines reduce the cost of space travel significantly, making space travel more inexpensive than ever before. Musk even suggested that the cost could drop to as low as $100,000 in the future.

"The objective is to become a space faring civilization and a multi-planetary species," Musk said to space.com.

This new SpaceX project gives space-enthusiasts the hope that someday humans may become exactly that, a species that can live on multiple planets.

Picture from @SpaceX

For the mission, the tanker is expected to refuel the Mars Vehicle in Earth's Orbit, according to SpaceX.



Picture from @SpaceX

SpaceX plans to have an Interplanetary Spaceship to arrive at Mars and may not be as unbelievable as one may think; this artistic rendering may be the reality soon.

Picture from @drnic1

According to spacenews.com, the source of the explosion on the launch pad in Sept., which resulted in Falcon 9 exploding, is being investigated by SpaceX.

Arts & Entertainment

Found Footage Of The Infamous Blair Witch

By Allison Cobb
Distribution Manager

Burkittsville, Maryland is a quaint town much like Dade City, Florida: in the middle of nowhere and not something many people know about. However, with the return of the franchise"Blair Witch," Burkittsville is becoming relevant again.

"Blair Witch" is a found footage style horror film, which is shot like a home video, as though the characters themselves are filming. The movie depicts several young adults exploring the woods of Burkittsville, formerly called Blair, in an attempt to find the "Blair Witch." In theaters as of Sept. 16th, "Blair Witch" is the sequel to "The Blair Witch Project," released in 1999. Both movies are filmed the same way, with a shaky camera style that takes some getting used to. It isn't for everyone, but people who have liked movies such as "Paranormal Activity" or "The Taking of Deborah Logan" might enjoy it, or they might see the holes in it.

The biggest problem with Blair Witch is that it doesn't live up to its predecessor.

Lane, also known as exposition guy, explains concepts such as the witch forcing people to stand in the corner while she kills another person, or that if someone looks directly at her, they'll die instantly. These are all things that were established in "The Blair Witch Project" and are later brought back, establishing "Blair Witch" as a sequel to the previous movie.

The motive of the main character, James, stems from the disappearance of his sister, Heather, who vanished while investigating the existence of the Blair Witch. Heather's story is the plot of The Blair Witch Project, tying him directly to the original movie. James and his friends, Peter, Ashley, and Lisa, get in contact with a couple, Lane and Talia, who claim to have found a tape in the woods that James believes his sister took before disappearing. His emotional turmoil begins the camping trip of these kid's lifetime.

The plot of "Blair Witch" has a rather basic feel to it: a few happy-go- lucky college students messing with a bigger entity than they originally anticipated. It's a trope that's been done time and time again. It's found in basically every horror movie in which one finds themselves screaming at the movie's fictional characters for the less-than- smart choices they make.

The plot doesn't do this movie any good. It's a story about some kids who venture into a place they don't belong, and come face to face with the monster in the woods. This isn't the most original concept and can be easily looked over, especially with the horror genre becoming more and more complex. Their simple motives push them too far, they don't have reason to keep filming, they don't have reason to keep searching, and they don't have reason to go into the house at the end. Many critics such as writers for Complexcon, Consequence of Sound, and Joblo have knocked the new "Blair Witch" movie, pointing out the flimsy-ness of the plot and the characters.

The only redeeming quality of "Blair Witch" are the powers of the woods or the witch.

The plot is simple, but the witch's ability to compress time, utilize impossible space, and essentially force her victims into an alternate universe, are still interesting.

Tensions rise between the group of teenagers, Peter, Lisa, James, and Ashley, and the couple who were acting as their guides, Lane and Talia. After the first night in the woods, they all agree they must leave to escape the escalating strange happenings. Loud noises in the night and the disappearance of one of their friends has left them shaken up. But as they walk south for what feels like an eternity and the evening approaches, they find themselves back at their original campsite. It's not clear whether the witch is moving the forest around them or messing with the characters mentally, but somehow, she is warping how they view the physical world.

Throughout the entire movie, James is searching for the house from the previous "Blair Witch" movie. He believes that this is the place that his sister had disappeared, and that if he finds this house, he'll find his sister. Nearing the end of the movie, when James and Lisa come across this house, he rushes inside and is faced with a maze of hallways and doors, and makes his way up to the attic.

A few moments later, when Lisa enters the house, it's completely shifted. She finds herself forced down to the basement, and comes across Lane, who appears to have been in the house for months, another example of the witch's warping of time. Is the witch shifting the physical properties of the house? Do only certain parts of the house exist to certain characters?

It's unclear, and one of the greatest aspects of horror movies. The witch also compresses time. Lisa sets an alarm for 7 am, but finds that it is still dark outside when they wake up. Lane and Talia separate from the group, but after what seems like a day, they reunite and Lane claims that they've been wandering for five days. This warping of time leaves the character confused and thus the audience too. Psychological horror movies are supposed to challenge the viewer, and that's just what 'Blair Witch' does.

Upcoming Local Events

Dade City:
Scream-a-Geddon
Date:
9/30-11/5 7:30PM-1:00AM
Location:
27839 Saint Joe Rd.
Dade City, FL 33525
Contact:
813-452-5412
Price:
$19.95 - $32.95 varying by day
Description:
Scream-a-Geddon features six haunted attractions, including a novelty in the haunted house scene: an interactive haunted house where those who attend have the chance to be kidnapped and taken into hidden rooms in the attraction, making it a much more spontaneous and terrifying experience. The event also features a horror-themed hayride as well as a carnival midway where people can play games, get food, and relax in between the scares.

"The Blair Witch Project" helped set off the found footage genre, and as a result, "Blair Witch" had a lot to live up to. In some ways, it succeeded, with plenty of references to the previous film and the utilization of scare tactics specific to this franchise. In other ways, it failed. The characters weren't relatable, the plot was hard to justify, and the whole thing seemed preventable. They probably shouldn't bother making another Blair Witch when the first one already exists in all its terrifying 90's glory.

The cast was twice the size of original Blair Witch movie.

Photos from twitter@BlairWitchMovie

Arts & Entertainment

The Best Sports Game of This Generation

By Vincent Pensabene
Contributing Writer

NBA 2K17, the latest entry in the NBA2K series, was released on Sept. 16 for the PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, and Xbox One. Visual Concepts, the developers of the game, and 2K Sports, the publisher, worked diligently to make this year's installment of the game as authentic as possible; almost as if one were watching an actual NBA game.

The visuals in the game are astonishing. The graphics are well done this year as the developers travelled to all thirty NBA arenas and recorded the sounds of each buzzer and the sound the net makes once you make a shot. The game play is incredible with the commentary team that has eleven different commentators that group up based on the location of the home team. Because of this, the game never feels dry as there is different insight into every game that you play.

Ever wondered what it would be like to play in the NBA? NBA 2K17 will allow you to do this. The "MyNBA2K17" app, available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, will allow the player to perform a face scan and put themselves into the game. The storyline for the created player is completely different this year compared to last year's edition. This year, the created character is already a high school prodigy who is about to decide what college he is going to attend. While in college, the player tries to impress NBA scouts with their play and attempt to win the NCAA National Championship to increase their draft stock. After the NBA draft, the player meets up with the newest signee of the team: Denver Levins, a former D-League and International player that shares the same position as the created character, and the two grow a friendship on and off the court. This mode has exponentially improved as the story that this mode creates continues well past the player's rookie season, as it did in last year's MyCareer mode.

Visual Concepts have also improved the MyLeague/MyGM modes. In this mode, the gamer has the ability to control a team's destiny from everything from relocating a team to a different city to changing the official NBA rules in the offseason as either a team's General Manager or Owner. This mode was completely revamped as now it is possible to create a league with up to 35 other players as gamers can expand the NBA to 36 teams if the player chooses so. This mode really makes the creativity aspect of the gamers to the test as many people like to do "what if" scenarios.

The best game mode in the game is MyTeam. The objective of this game mode is to collect cards from opening packs, playing games, or buying cards off of the auction house. The goal for most players is to collect the best possible team of 13 players from past and present. If you manage to collect 2,500 different cards, you receive a 99 overall (in a 100-point rating scale) Kobe Bryant. Cards are broken down into tiers: bronze, silver, gold, emerald, sapphire, ruby, onyx, diamond, and pink diamond. Instead of just playing against other users in the mode with your team, you can play MyTeam Blacktop. In this revamped game, you select one player from your collection and get randomly selected two cards that are in the game and not necessarily cards that you have obtained.

All in all, this game is a must have game for all sports lovers. It is an incredible upgrade from last year's edition of the game with all these improvements. The developers listened to almost every request that the community had offered. Even though there is still no draft mode, like "Madden" has incorporated, the game receives a 9.2 out of 10.

College Days
Created by Austin Chiavaroli
"Dawn of the Christmas Section"
Soon we shall take over Halloween.
All the candy shall be ours.

Sports

Men's Golf Starts Off Season with National Ranking

By Niclas Bez
Contributing Writer

The Saint Leo University Men's Golf team has opened their season well. Going into the season as the defending National Champion is definitely a new feeling for the Lions that made history in May of 2016. The Team of Hugo Bernard, Liam Ainsworth, Joey Savoie, Riley Goss, and Griffin Clark won the first National title in school history by beating Chico State in a thrilling final round in Denver, Colorado.

From the Championship winning team, only Bernard and Goss are left. Ainsworth graduated in spring, Savoie transferred to a Division I school, and Griffin Clark tragically passed away over summer. Head Coach Chris Greenwood had some work to do in order to form a team that would be able to meet the high expectations.

"Our team is younger and has less experience than the team did last year. We had such a strong team last year, that now the guys that maybe didn't get a chance to play will play a lot this year and have to contribute. The good thing is that we compete against each other every day so any one of our new faces had beaten those old faces at some point," said Senior Casey Bannon.

Starting off with being the number one ranked team in the Nation the Lions opened their season with the Saint Leo Invitational. The Lions registered a team and three individuals to give more players the chance to play and gain important experience for the upcoming season. The Lions came in eighth place.

The reigning individual national champion and freshman of the year, Bernard, was not able to attend due to the fact that he was playing at the World Amateur Team Championship (WATC) in Mexico to represent his home country, Canada.

On the Lake Jovita Golf Course, Colin Warren was the best placed Lion, finishing eleventh with a score of 215 (-1). However, he was registered as an individual, which is why he did not score for the team. Best scoring athlete of the team was Bannon, who finished thirteenth followed by Ryan Gendron and Noah Purvis.

The second tournament for the Men's Golf team was the Division II National Preview in Kissimmee, Florida, which was hosted by Saint Leo University in collaboration with the Central Florida Sport Commission and Experience Kissimmee. Being ranked down to place seven in the Nation after the first tournament of the season the Lions were looking forward to show their full potential.

Photo from @collegolf

Ryan Gendron (right) and Coach Chris Greenwood (left) practicing out on the field.

As expected, Bernard was leading the Lions with a three-way tie for first with two players from Florida Southern. Southern's John Coultas won the playoff hole with a birdie on the first one. Bernard was followed by Goss in tenth, and Bannon tied for 31st. In the end, the Lions were able to move up on the last 18 holes to tie for fifth out of the 18 Teams that played the National Preview.

The Lions are looking good for the early season, but still have a lot of room to improve in order to be able to compete with the best teams in the Nation. Next to top-performer Bernard, Bannon and Goss are two great players to look out for during the 2016-'17 golf season.

"It's just a matter of making every day count, taking advantage of our time, and being in the right frame of mind once we go the course. If we can commit as a group this team can do anything it wants this season," said Bannon.

Upcoming Games For the Week of 10/14/16 - 10/21/16

W Volleyball

10/14: Vs West Fla. @ Orlando, Fla. 2:30 pm
10/15: Vs Valdosta @ Orlando, Fla. 10:00 am
10/15: Vs North Ala. @ Orlando, Fla. 4:45 pm
10/18: Vs Tampa 7:00 pm
10/21: Vs Palm Beach Atlantic 7:00 pm

W Soccer

10/15: @ Embery-Riddle 6:00 pm
10/19: Vs Tampa 7:00 pm

M Soccer

10/15: Vs Embery-Riddle 7:00 pm
10/19: @ Tampa 7:00 pm

W Golf

10/17: Saint Leo Invitational @ Dade City, Fla.
10/18: Saint Leo Invitational @ Dade City, Fla.

W Swimming

10/14: @ Lynn 3:00 pm
10/14: Vs Florida Tech @ Boca Raton, Fla. 3:00 pm

M Swimming

10/14: Vs Florida Tech @ Boca Raton, Fla. 3:00 pm

LOOKING FOR STORIES!

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